



0335CH02

Going to the Mela

Preparing for the Mela

The *mela* has finally come to town. Nita and Radha are getting ready to go to the *mela*. There is a lot of excitement. The *mela* is a little far from home; so they need to take a bus.



“What’s happening? You all seem to be very busy?” asked *Dadiji*.

“We are going to the mela, *Dadiji*. Please come with us!” requested Nita and Radha.

“Mela! Oh yes, your mother asked me to come along, too. I would have loved to. But you know my legs hurt,” said *Dadiji*.

Nita’s father joined the conversation.

“We have a lot of people with us.

Our neighbours, Sneha and

Rohit, as well as Mohan

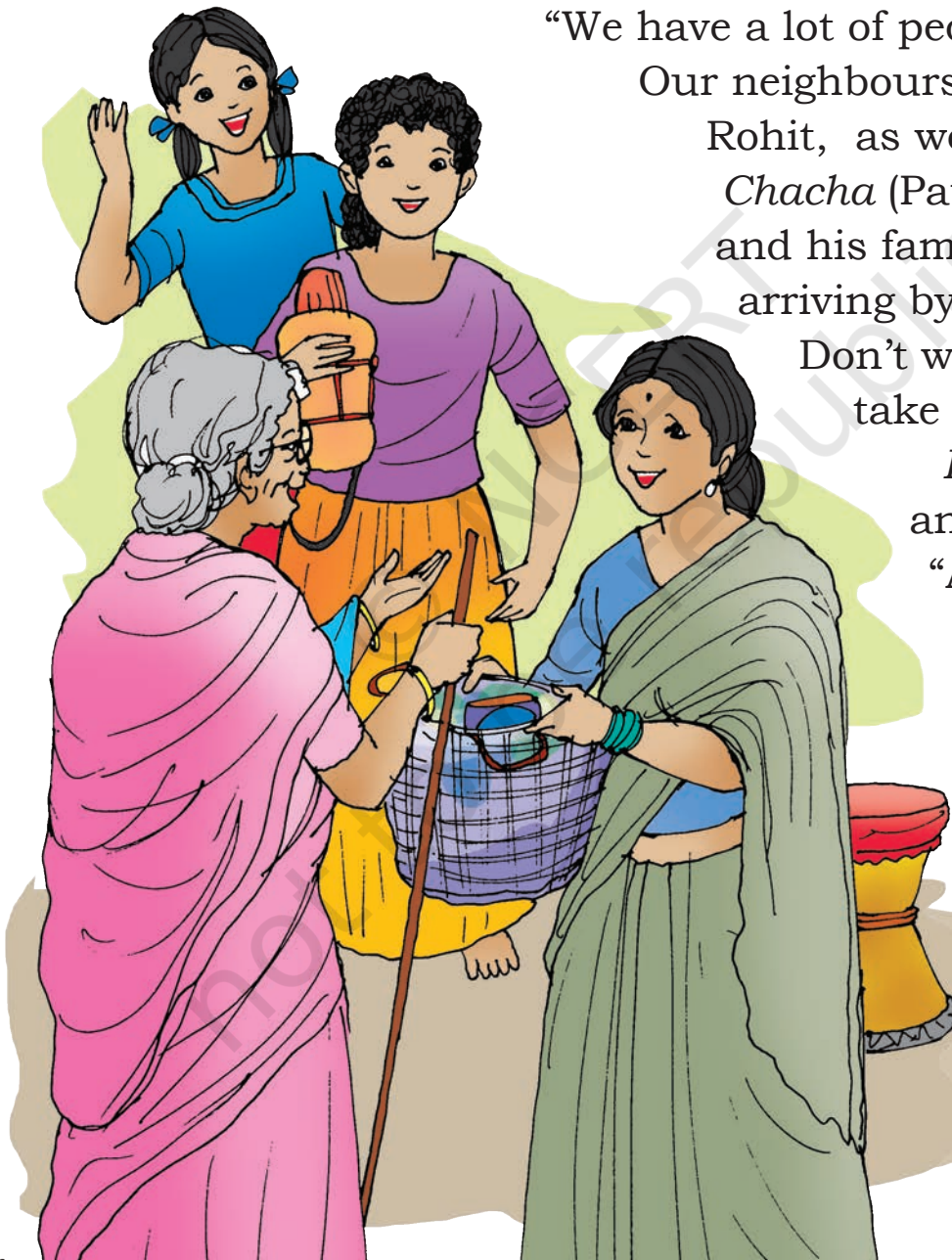
Chacha (Paternal uncle)

and his family. They are arriving by train today.

Don’t worry! We will take care of you.”

Dadiji smiled and answered,

“Alright, I will come. Have you filled up your water bottles?”





“Oh yes, *Dadiji!* Our special bag is ready too,” Nita replied. The children jumped with joy. Everybody was very happy that *Dadiji* had agreed to come.

Nita’s father called out to their neighbours asking them to be ready on time.

In the meantime, Mohan *Chacha* called them to say that they would meet Nita and her family directly at the *mela*. They would take a city bus and then an autorickshaw to reach the *mela* ground.

“Wow! There are so many of us. What fun we are going to have!” exclaimed Radha.



Discuss

- How do you prepare yourself for a trip?



On the Way to the Mela



Sneha and Rohit are not just Nita's neighbours; they are close friends too. They are also getting ready to go to the *mela*.

"Sneha, get ready quickly. Nita's family will be arriving soon," said their mother.



"I am almost ready, *Ma*. I am just making sure that I have taken everything I need with me," Sneha added.

"It's time to leave. Nita's family is here," announced her father.

Soon after, they all left for the *mela*. Nita held





Dadiji's hand and led her slowly to the bus stop. They walked carefully on the road keeping an eye on the vehicles moving in both directions.

Bus number 401 slowly came to a halt. The conductor and Nita's father helped *Dadiji* get on the bus. There was a seat reserved for older people. *Dadiji* sat comfortably in it.

Everyone boarded the bus and sat all around *Dadiji*. Rohit's father insisted on buying the tickets for everyone. "Five full and four half tickets please," he said to the conductor. He told the children to sit on their seats and not jump around. He also asked them not to put their hands or head out of the window for their safety. The bus went through the city and finally reached the big ground where the *mela* was being held.





Discuss

- What transport do you take to travel within your city/town/village?



Write

Describe briefly any trip that you have taken with your friends, neighbours or family.





At the Mela

Both the families reached the big parade ground where the *mela* was being held. Mohan Chacha and his family also got down from an autorickshaw.

At the entrance, there was a map of the *mela* ground showing the various stalls and their locations. An ambulance, police jeep and fire engine were parked next to it. There was also a 'Lost and Found' booth with volunteers. Mohan Chacha and Rohit hurried to get a wheelchair for *Dadiji*.



As they entered, they saw stalls with games, toys, sweets and many interesting things. The children were overjoyed. They visited the toy stall



from where they bought spinning tops, puppets, *phirkis* and dolls. The children then took a ride on the merry-go-round and the giant wheel. Sneha and Radha bought bangles and other trinkets.





“Let us go and see the magic show now,” said Nita. They also then enjoyed the magic show!

Mohan *Chacha* called out to the children, “You have had a lot of fun; now let’s have something to eat. But before you eat you need to wash your hands properly.” The children went to the water point and washed their hands. They all ate *gol gappas*, *chaat*, *chhole kulche*, hot *jalebis* with *rabri*, *kulfi* and many other delicious things. After eating, they made sure they put all the waste in the dustbin.

As they were leaving the *mela*, *Dadiji* exclaimed, “Look children! Who is accompanying the police officer?”

All the children answered together, “*Dadiji*, it is a police dog!”



Do you know?

Kumbh *Mela* is the world’s biggest festival. It is the largest gathering of mankind and is held on the banks of rivers Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari and Shipra. It is held once every 12 years in Haridwar, Prayagraj, Nashik and Ujjain.





Write

- What is the purpose of the 'Lost and Found' booth?

- What is the role of the police dog?

- Have you ever been to a *mela*? What are the things you liked most in the *mela*?



Discuss

Sharing Experience

Imagine yourself in place of Nita, Radha, Sneha and Rohit. Share with the class the interesting things you would do in the *mela*.



- Talk to the elders in the family and find out how *melas* were different when they were young.
- Why are fire engines and ambulances present in a *mela*?





Activity 1

Reading a Sketch



Study the sketch and answer.

- Find and circle Rohit and Sneha's house on the map.
- Find and circle Nita and Radha's house on the map.
- Whose house is closer to the parade ground?
- If you have to go from the police station to the parade ground, which places would you pass through?





Draw

In the given space, sketch the route from home to school that you follow everyday.



Let us reflect

A. Discuss in the class

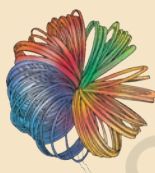
1. How can we care for our elders?
2. What kinds of vehicles do we see around us?
3. How can we ensure safety during travel?

B. Match the pictures with the words

Pick a suitable word from the list, match it with a picture, and write the word below the picture. One has been done for you.



Volunteer



Firefighter

Halwai/Confectioner

Toy seller

Puppeteer

Bangle seller

Volunteer

Police officer

Medical attendant

Mehendi artist

C. Draw in your notebook

Draw and label different vehicles that you see around your school and home.

D. Role play: Organise a mock *mela*

With the help of your teacher, organise a mock *mela* in your classroom. Discuss and plan the different roles, stalls, and games that are part of a *mela*. Use learning-teaching materials available locally, e.g., toys, puppets, play money, miniatures, and clay models to set up your stalls and role-play buyers and sellers.

